



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T - 47 - 06
For Immediate Release
Wednesday, August 09, 2006

Contact: Jeanne Garcia
818.551.2176
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

DTSC Certifies Cleanup at Former Silver Queen Junkyard Site, Mojave

FRESNO – Successfully reclaiming a brownfield site for economic uses, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the “certification” of the former Silver Queen Junkyard in Mojave. Certification means that all environmental cleanup activities are complete and a deed restriction has been recorded. As a result of the cleanup the 20 acre site is now no longer a threat to groundwater, habitat to the desert tortoise, Mojave ground squirrel, burrowing owl, or presents risks to human health and may be reused for commercial or industrial use.

The former Silver Queen Junkyard site, located at Silver Queen Road Extension and United Street in Mojave, was previously used for the recovery of metals from automobile seats, batteries, insulated wire and used gas meters. Mr. Avedic Agajanian owned and operated the site from 1963 to 1970. Mr. Agajanian discontinued operations in 1970.

DTSC investigated the property in 1989, found significant soil contamination - copper, lead, dioxins, furans, and zinc - and issued an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment and Remedial Action Order (Order) to Mr. Agajanian to fully characterize the site and develop a cleanup plan.

Mr. Agajanian failed to comply with the Order, so DTSC used State funds through its orphan site program to conduct the characterization and cleanup.

Remediation of the site consisted of consolidating and capping contaminated soils on-site and recording a deed restriction which advises land uses consistent with the environmental cleanup.

The Silver Queen Junkyard site received an “industrial / commercial” certification. DTSC will conduct an annual inspection at the site as part of planned operation and maintenance. To view the documents associated with this cleanup, visit DTSC Website at www.dtsc.ca.gov

###

The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.